GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
REVIEW OF NATIONAL WATER POLICY
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the National Water Policy in view of its opposition by various NGOs and other institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any progress has been made in the implementation of National Water Policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) The National Water Policy has been adopted by the National Water Resources Council (NWRC) on 1st April, 2002. The Prime Minister is the Chairman of NWRC and Chief Ministers of all States and Lieutenant Governors/Administrators of the Union Territories and Union Ministers of Water related Ministries are its members. After adoption of the policy, Policy Action Dialogues were held through series of workshops held at Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Guwahati, Jaipur, Lucknow and Pune during August-October, 2002. The views expressed by various participants representing Non-Governmental Organisations were duly considered while preparing the Action Plan. The Action Plan was put up in the Conference of Water Resources and Irrigation Ministers of States/Union Territories held on 5th February, 2003 wherein the same has been adopted.

Only a few NGOs have expressed their opinion for revising some of the provisions, such as 'Private Sector Participation'. However, in view of general agreement of the participants with the Action Plan formulated for implementation of the National Water Policy, it is not considered appropriate to review the Policy at this stage.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Provision on 'Private Sector Participation' stipulates participation of private sector in providing facilities/services and it does not provide for privatsing water as a resource. As such, reviewing the policy is not considered necessary. Moreover, the Policy has been revised and adopted recently i.e. April, 2002.

However, the National Water Policy may be revised as and when need arises, as laid down in the policy.

(d)&(e) The Action Plan for implementation of National Water Policy has been finalized and after its adoption by the Conference of Water Resources and Irrigation Ministers of States/Union Territories held on 5th February, 2003, the same has been sent to all State Governments/Union Territories for implementation.